

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

REC'D 14 DEC 2004

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Applicant's or agent's file reference PD030034	FOR FURTHER ACTION	
See Form PCT/IPEA/416		
International application No. PCT/EP2004/002561	International filing date (day/month/year) 12.03.2004	Priority date (day/month/year) 25.03.2003
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC G11B19/02, G06F3/033		
Applicant THOMSON LICENSING S.A ET AL.		

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (<i>sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau</i>) a total of 2 sheets, as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis of this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions). <input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box. <input type="checkbox"/> (<i>sent to the International Bureau only</i>) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)), containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions). 																
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> This report contains indications relating to the following items: <table> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I</td> <td>Basis of the opinion</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II</td> <td>Priority</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III</td> <td>Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV</td> <td>Lack of unity of invention</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V</td> <td>Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI</td> <td>Certain documents cited</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII</td> <td>Certain defects in the international application</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII</td> <td>Certain observations on the international application</td> </tr> </table> 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I	Basis of the opinion	<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II	Priority	<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III	Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability	<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV	Lack of unity of invention	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement	<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI	Certain documents cited	<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII	Certain defects in the international application	<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII	Certain observations on the international application
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Date of submission of the demand 30.10.2004	Date of completion of this report 14.12.2004
Name and mailing address of the International preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office - P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Pays Bas Tel. +31 70 340 - 2040 Tx: 31 651 epo nl Fax: +31 70 340 - 3016	Authorized Officer Benfield, A Telephone No. +31 70 340-2973
	

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Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **language**, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 - This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
 - international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b))
 - publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4)
 - international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3)
2. With regard to the **elements*** of the international application, this report is based on (*replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report*):

Description, Pages

1-10 as originally filed

Claims, Numbers

1-10 received on 30.10.2004 with letter of 26.10.2004

Drawings, Sheets

1/1 as originally filed

a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) - see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.

3. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
 - the description, pages
 - the claims, Nos. 1-10
 - the drawings, sheets/figs
 - the sequence listing (*specify*):
 - any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*):
4. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).
 - the description, pages
 - the claims, Nos.
 - the drawings, sheets/figs
 - the sequence listing (*specify*):
 - any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*):

* If item 4 applies, some or all of these sheets may be marked "superseded."

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Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes:	Claims	1-10
	No:	Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes:	Claims	1-10
	No:	Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes:	Claims	1-10
	No:	Claims	

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7):

see separate sheet

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Re Item V

Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

Reference is made to the following document:

D1: EP-A-1 052 644 (TOKYO SHIBAURA ELECTRIC CO) 15 November 2000
(2000-11-15)

The document D1 is regarded as being the closest prior art to the subject-matter of claim 1 and shows:

a system for the display of a menu for the selection of video recordings stored on a recording medium, in which the various recordings are represented by a thumbnail image derived from a still picture taken from the recorded video images.

The subject-matter of claim 1 differs from this known D1 in that:

- (i) the menu images are stored on the recording medium as separate files;
- (ii) each menu item can be shown in three different modes: normal (unselected), selected and active.
- (iii) for each menu item, 3 different images are stored on the medium to represent each of the three different modes.

The subject-matter of claim 1 is therefore new (Article 33(2) PCT).

The problem to be solved by the present invention may be regarded as:

to find a manner in which the status of a video recording to be reproduced can be indicated in the menu displayed by the reproducing device.

The solution to this problem proposed in claim 1 of the present application is considered as involving an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT) for the following reasons:

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to indicate status of the menu items by using different images would not be obvious from the cited prior art. The prior art solution concerns only the use of highlighting (by, e.g. a colour change or framing) to show that an item has been selected.

Claims 2-10 are dependent on claim 1 and as such also meet the requirements of the PCT with respect to novelty and inventive step.

Claims

1. A method for representing menu buttons (2,3) in a menu for controlling the presentation of video data stored on a removable storage medium, the menu buttons (2,3) having one out of three states, the states being normal (3), selected (2) or activated, **characterized in that**
 - data describing the menu buttons are also stored on said removable storage medium, the data comprising for each button image data; and
 - a menu button is represented by different images corresponding to different image data, depending on its state being normal (3), selected (2) or activated.
- 15 2. Method according to claim 1, wherein the image data representing a particular menu button state on the display contain a sequence of pictures.
- 20 3. Method according to claim 2, wherein displaying said sequence of pictures representing a button is repeated as long as the button remains in its state.
- 25 4. Method according to claim 2 or 3, wherein the rate at which a sequence of pictures is displayed is relative to the video frame rate, and a value defining said rate is stored on said storage medium.
- 30 5. Method according to any of the previous claims, wherein a sound or sound sequence may be associated to a state of a menu button, the sound or sound sequence being played back upon entry of the button into the associated state.

6. Method according to claim 5, wherein the sound associated with a state of a menu button is a speech sequence.

5 7. Method according to any of the previous claims, wherein a region identifier, the region identifier being stored on said storage medium, determines the display position of a menu button.

10 8. Method according to any of the previous claims, wherein the data structure on said storage medium contains a segment defining the page composition, the data segment containing said data representing the menu buttons.

15 9. A removable storage medium containing video data and a data segment representing menu data for a menu for controlling the presentation of said video data, wherein the menu comprises menu buttons, the menu buttons (2, 3) having one out of three states, the states being normal (3), selected (2) or activated, characterized in that
20 - the data describing the menu buttons comprise image data and neighbour information; and
- a menu button is represented by different images corresponding to different image data, depending on its state being normal (3), selected (2) or activated.

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10. An apparatus for displaying a menu on a screen, the menu being controlled by menu data read from a storage medium and the menu comprising menu buttons, wherein the menu buttons may be represented according to any of the methods of claims 1-8.